

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated November 18, 2009. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the Present Application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0035451 to Ishida ("Ishida"). These rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are allowable over Ishida, for at least the following reasons.

Ishida shows a (emphasis added) "laser driver circuit [that] includes a biasing current source, a threshold current source, and a modulation current source ... The laser driver circuit drives the laser diode by a sum of a continuous bias current, the threshold current and the modulation current. (See, Ishida, abstract.)

While the Office Action on page 2 interprets Ishida as showing a control signal that is supplied to the laser device a pre-bias signal with a magnitude less than the threshold value and that varies, it is respectfully submitted that reliance on Ishida in the cited sections or any sections for that matter is misplaced.

Ishido shows in FIGs. 20A-20H (cited in the Final Office Action), and particularly FIG. 20F, a modulation control signal INIT-ON or F1 cited in the Final Office Action as corresponding to the pre-bias signal recited in the claims of the Present Application. Ishido further shows a threshold-on signal in FIG. 20E (see, Ishido, paragraph [0204]). FIG. 20G shows a (emphasis added) "drive current G1 [applied to the laser diode that] is a sum of the bias current produced by the bias current source 12, the threshold current  $I_{th}$  produced by the threshold current source 11, the modulation current [INIT-ON or F1] produced by the modulation current source 13, and the initial modulation current ..." (See, Ishido, paragraph [0205].)

As is clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art from a simple inspection of the laser drive signal G1 applied to the laser device as shown by Ishida (see, Ishido, FIG. 20G), the threshold current  $I_{th}$  (shown as E1 in FIG. 20E of Ishido) reaches a threshold level prior to application of the modulation control signal (shown as F1 in FIG. 20F of Ishido). Accordingly, the modulation control signal INIT-ON or F1 cited in the Final Office Action, is not a pre-bias signal that is applied prior to application of a threshold value signal. Clearly the modulation signal F1 of Ishido is

applied after the threshold signal E1. (See, Ishido, FIGs. 20E, 20F and 20G.)

It is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Ishida. For example, Ishida does not teach, disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "supplying, to the diode laser device as the control signal and at a predetermined turn-on time, a write bias signal having a value which exceeds the threshold value, wherein the threshold value is a lasing threshold for the diode laser device, and supplying to the diode laser device, as the control signal and at a predefined time before the predetermined turn-on time, a pre-bias signal, which has a magnitude that varies, is less than the threshold value and extends for a time period to immediately before the write bias signal" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in each of claims 7 and 13.

As is clear from Ishida, Ishida shows a laser diode signal that includes a threshold signal and a modulation signal where the modulation signal is applied after application of the threshold signal.

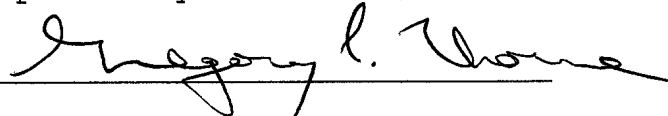
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable over Ishida, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-20 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 7 and 13 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of November 18, 2009

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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**THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP**

Applied Technology Center  
111 West Main Street  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
Tel: (631) 665-5139  
Fax: (631) 665-5101

**Please direct all inquiries and correspondence to:**

Michael E. Belk, Reg. 33,357  
Philips Intellectual Property & Standards  
P.O. Box 3001  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001  
(914) 333-9643